

Regarding the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully submits the following comments.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method for searching for information accessible through a client/server network containing a plurality of servers. The method includes the steps of connecting to one of the plurality of servers, receiving a graphical map of a geographic area from the server, displaying the graphical map on a display device, entering search criteria for locating at least one hypertext document based on a geographic position, and receiving a search result indicating the hypertext document located in accordance with the search criteria. The located hypertext document is accessible from another server different from the one server of the plurality of servers. The hypertext document also includes geographic position information in a metatag.

Sotiroff et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a system for listing and locating housing in specific geographic regions. The system includes a web home page and a housing information database. A map is displayed when the web home page is accessed by a user. The user narrows searches to geographic areas by selecting specific areas of interest on the map. Housing information related to the area of interest is then displayed for the user. This system, however, is not a web page search engine. It does not allow a user to locate web pages using geographic coordinates. The searchable information is limited to the information contained in the database -- rather than the universe of information available on the web.

As understood by Applicant, Girerd relates to a client-server based remote locator device. The Office Action states that Girerd shows a GPS receiver that a user can use to display simple position reports. In Girerd, a remote sensor transmits position data to a server where it is analyzed to determine the location of the remote sensor.

The Office Action states that in Girerd a remote server is identified based on an identification code. It is noted, however, that Claim 1 recites that the hypertext document (not a remote sensor) to be located includes geographic position information in a metatag (not just an identification code). Nothing found in Girerd teaches or suggests that the identification code includes geographic position information.

Claim 25 as amended is directed to a machine-readable storage medium including program codes, which upon execution, cause a machine to perform the steps comprising of receiving search criteria based upon a geographic position and searching the world wide web for a hypertext document that is accessible on a computer connected by a communication network in accordance with the search criteria. The hypertext document has a name based upon geographic location information related to content of the hypertext document.

Nothing found in Girerd is believed to teach or suggest this feature of Claim 25.

Accordingly, even if Sotiroff et al. and Girerd are combined as suggested in the Office Action, the result still would not teach or suggest the above noted features of Claims 1 and 25. For at least these reasons, Claims 1 and 25 are believed patentable over Sotiroff et al. and Girerd.

The other rejected claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Rick de Pinho, Reg. No. 41,703

Mail all correspondence to:
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
580 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

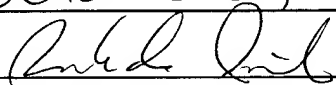
For Tony E. Piotrowski, Reg. No 42,080
Attorney for Applicants
Tel: (914) 333-9609

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On October 3, 2002

By 

Rick de Pinho, Reg. 41,703

Appendix of Claim Amendments

1. (Amended) A method for searching for information accessible through a client/server network containing a plurality of servers, comprising the steps of:

connecting to one of the plurality of servers;

receiving a graphical map of a geographic area from the server;

displaying the graphical map on a display device;

entering search criteria for locating at least one hypertext document based on a geographic position; and

receiving a search result indicating the hypertext document located in accordance with the search criteria,

wherein the located hypertext document is accessible from another server different from the one server of the plurality of servers,

wherein the hypertext document includes geographic position information in a metatag.

25. (Amended) A machine-readable storage medium including program codes, which upon execution, cause a machine to perform the steps comprising of receiving search criteria based upon a geographic position; and

searching the world wide web for a hypertext document that is accessible on a computer connected by a communication network in accordance with the search criteria,

wherein the hypertext document has a name based upon the geographic location position information related to content of the hypertext document.